III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table—

[a] (1) Proceedings of the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Finance Committee for 1924-19-25 held on 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 9th February 1925, respectively.

[b] (2) G.O. No. 108, Development, dated 21st January 1925, recording the audit report and accounts of Fisheries—Cannery—for quarter ending 30th June 1924.

[c] (3) G.O. No. 2187, Development, dated 24th December 1924, recording the audit report of the Kerala Soap Institute for the quarter ending 30th June 1924.

[d] (4) List of posts on Rs. 500 per mensem and above created during the quarter ending December 1924.

IV

BUDGET FOR 1925-1926.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"Mr. President, Sir, it falls to my lot to introduce a budget which contrasts most unfavourably with that presented to the Council by my predecessor last year and I feel that an explanation is due of the manner in which the finances of the Presidency have so for deteriorated from the position that enabled him to announce 'all clear'. By patient and persistent effort he had succeeded in reaching that position and was thoroughly justified, so far as could then be foreseen, in making the announcement. Financial stringency still continued and the budget was one of strict economy. There was no immediate prospect, without the return of a part of our contribution to the Central Government, of appreciable progress towards nation building, but he was in the happy position, after several years of deficit, of being able to announce that the year 1923-1924 was closing with a surplus of 11 lakhs instead of the anticipated deficit of 19½ lakhs. This result was achieved in spite of a falling off in revenue, due to a bad season in some parts of the Presidency, and of the fact that large grants had been provided in the course of the year to set the finances of

12 noon.

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[a] Printed as Appendix XI on pages 660-661 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix XII on pages 665-669 infra.

[c] Printed as Appendix XIII on pages 670-679 infra.

[d] Printed as Appendix XIV on pages 680-683 infra.

[Note.—An asterisk at the commencement of speech indicates revision by the Member.]